(d) the steps taken by Government against such Medical Colleges which are flouting rules of MCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. As per the information received from the Medical Council of India two out of three medical colleges affiliated to Delhi University, namely, Maulana Azad Medical College and Lady Hardinge Medical College are conducting the MD (Psychiatry) course and the same are recognised under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

Highest number of TB cases in Delhi

3995. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi has the highest number of TB cases in the world as 40-50 per cent of the total population is estimated to be infected with TB bacilli and 2.5 per cent suffering from the dreaded disease; '

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to tackle TB menace and check its further spread;

(c) whether sufficient funds, medical personnel, preventive and curative medicines, injections etc. are available with Government; and

(d) if not, what is being done in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is estimated that prevalence of infection in respect of Tuberculosis in India is about 30-40%. Since the disease spreads by air, the incidence of TB in the country is by and large similar. Whole of Delhi is covered by RNTCP under which total cases detected in 138 lakhs population during the year 2000 was 23907 which is approximately 173/lac, on an annualised basis.

(b) To tackle the problem of Tuberculosis, RNTCP is being implemented since 1997-98 in the whole of Delhi. This aims at curing

85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect 70% of such cases. The implementation of RNTCP in Delhi has shown good results with a new smear positive case detection rate of 68/lac and a treatment rate of about 80%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

News-item captioned, "AIIMS, Delhi choking on slow poison in atmosphere"

39%. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "AIIMS, Delhi choking on slow poison in atmosphere", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 21st March, 2001; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to save the people of the Capital exposed to poison through the air, water and food, as pointed out by experts from the AH India Institute of Medical Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The contents of the news-item are general opinion based on the brochure circulated for the National Workshop and Conference on poison control which was held at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on 30-31st March, 2001. The specific steps taken by the Government to control pollution in Delhi include the following:

(i) The Government has formulated a Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.

(ii) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to find out the impact of pollution.

(iii) A status Paper on pollution in Delhi with an Action-Plan